

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07 L-03 SSO-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 NSF-01 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-11 OIC-02 /175 W

-----071934 281855Z /46

O 281821Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1445
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 09833

STATE FOR AMB RICHARDSON, S/AR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, LOS
SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH FRANK NJENGA ON PROSPECTS
FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE 7TH SESSION

1. ALAN BERLIND AND RON KATZ HAD VERY PRODUCTIVE
DISCUSSION WITH FRANK NJENGA ON JUNE 28 IN GENEVA
ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE 7TH SESSION
OF UNCLOS. NJENGA BEGAN BY STATING A VERY PESSIMISTIC
VIEW ON THE PROSPECTS FOR THE CONTINUATION, A VIEW
WHICH HE HAD COMMUNICATED TO HIS FOREIGN OFFICE AS
WELL. HE STATED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT HE WOULD
BE ATTENDING THE CONTINUATION BECAUSE HE FELT THAT IT
WOULD PRODUCE LITTLE AT BEST AND BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE
AT WORST. HE FELT THAT THERE WAS NO GENERAL SUPPORT
OR LOGICAL REASON FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE SESSION
AND THAT THE PRINCIPAL MOTIVATING FACTOR FOR THE
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CONTINUATION WAS ENGO'S ABILITY TO MANIPULATE THE
AFRICAN GROUP TO SUPPORT ENGO'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE
SESSION. NJENGA WAS EXTREMELY CRITICAL OF ENGO AND
FELT THAT ENGO HAD NO PLAN OF WORK FOR THE CONTINUATION
OF THE 7TH SESSION AND FURTHER THAT ENGO'S MAIN
REASON IN WANTING THE CONTINUATION WAS PERSONAL.

2. BERLIND AND KATZ EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE US PLACED ON NJENGA'S ATTENDANCE AT THE CONTINUATION PRECISELY FOR THE REASON THAT OTHERWISE IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THE GENEVA SESSION. NJENGA STATED THAT IF IT WERE FELT THAT HE WAS NEEDED, HE WOULD WRITE A FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO HIS MINISTRY TO THAT EFFECT; IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, HE ADDED, IF THE US COULD ALSO MAKE ITS VIEWS CLEARLY KNOWN TO HIS MINISTRY. NJENGA SEEMED GENUINELY SURPRISED THAT WE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS FROM NAIROBI THAT HE WOULD BE ATTENDING THE NEW YORK SESSION AND HE STATED THAT IN ANY CASE, OTHER COMMITMENTS WOULD PREVENT HIM FROM ATTENDING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE CONTINUATION WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH PROCEDURAL HAGGLING.

3. NJENGA VERY STRONGLY AGREED WITH THE SUGGESTION IN AMB RICHARDSON'S LETTER TO HIM THAT THE WORK AT THE CONTINUATION MUST GO FORWARD RATHER THAN GOING OVER THE GROUND COVERED IN GENEVA. HE FELT THAT THE LOGIC OF A RESUMED SESSION DICTATED SUCH A COURSE, AND THAT THE GROUP OF 77 WOULD NOT OBJECT TO THIS SUGGESTION. WHEN APPRISED BY KATZ AND BERLIND THAT ONE IMPEDIMENT TO THIS COURSE WAS THE FEAR OF SOME COUNTRIES THAT IF THE GROUND COVERED IN GENEVA WERE NOT RECOVERED, THOSE TEXTS WOULD BE CONSIDERED ACCEPTED. HE AGREED WITH BERLIND AND KATZ' SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE

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TO WRITE AMERASINGHE REEMPHASIZING THAT NO ONE WOULD BE BOUND BY THE NEGOTIATING TEXTS PRODUCED AT GENEVA.

4. HE EXPLICITLY AND FRANKLY CRITICIZED ENGO'S ROLE IN THE CONFERENCE AND WAS AT FIRST RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE SUGGESTION THAT ENGO SHOULD HANDLE DISPUTES SETTLEMENT, WHICH NJENGA CONSIDERS A CORE ISSUE. NJENGA SUGGESTED INSTEAD THAT ENGO HANDLE THE GUARANTY OF SECURITY OF TENURE FOR JOINT VENTURES WHICH WAS LESS OF A CORE ISSUE AND WHICH COULD BE HANDLED RELATIVELY EASY WITHIN A FOUR-WEEK SESSION. ULTIMATELY, IT WAS AGREED THAT PERHAPS MOST DESIRABLE COURSE WAS TO GIVE ENGO THAT NEGOTIATING RESPONSIBILITY WHILE CREATING A TECHNICAL EXPERTS GROUP ON DISPUTES SETTLEMENT UNDER HIS GUIDANCE BUT CHAIRED BY SOMEONE LIKE EVENSEN.

5. COMMENT: UNLESS YOU ADVISE TO THE CONTRARY, WE WILL FEEL OUT EVENSEN ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A ROLE IN DISPUTES SETTLEMENT WHEN WE MEET WITH HIM IN OSLO ON FRIDAY, JUNE 30. YOU MIGHT ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER COMMUNICATING FURTHER WITH ENGO AND AMERASINGHE, WHO NJENGA BELIEVES HOLDS THE KEY TO SETTING UP PROCEDURES

FOR THE NEW YORK MEETING. FINALLY, YOU MAY WISH TO
INSTRUCT AMEMBASSY NAIROBI TO APPROACH GOK ON
IMPORTANCE OF NJENGA'S PARTICIPATION. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA09833
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780267-1048
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780613/aaaaaktw.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: af54e57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2183156
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSIONS WITH FRANK NJENGA ON PROSPECTS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE 7TH SESSION
TAGS: OCON, PLOS, US, KE, (NJENGA, FRANK), (BERLIND, ALAN), (KATZ, RON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/af54e57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014